

Rev. J.A. Stephan

Chicago, August 16th 1888

Dear Miss K. M. Drexel,

Before I left Washington I paid a visit to His Eminence, the Cardinal. He was vexed about our request to get Rev. Hylebos. He said he wrote only to please you, but did not like to do so to make him a conveyance and asked me sharply whether a priest could not be found in the East to do the work; then alluding to my written request to increase my salary he said, that the distribution of funds was already made and therefore it was out of question to raise my salary, besides that I handle so much money and do not need any and then he added: "I am afraid the Indians get too much money." I tell you candidly, it cut me to the inmost of my soul! Does a sacred trust of handling money give me any right to help myself or does His Eminence class me as dishonest? All emanates from a bitter jealousy on account of money matters and this is a heavy cross on me and I wished, for personal comfort sake to have nothing to do with finances, but if I must, I shall bear all calumnities for God's sake and the salvation of my own soul & the Indians. Inclosed please find Very Re. Hylebos letter to me. I really expected that when I wrote to his Bishop for him. The fear of losing a pound of precious flesh or a little bird of comfort acts like an unsurmountable barrier. Why did you say I had not attended to matters you wrote to me. I fulfilled everything you asked for and bless you and your dear Sisters morning and evening.

I have sent \$7000.00 to Rev. Hylebos but he did not send me a formal receipt, but acknowledged it in his inclosed (sic) letter. Please return it to me. I shall send him a check of \$3000 more today, as you requested.

Re. Perrig met me here and insisted to build his plan. I gave him according to his own estimate \$4000.00 to build and complete the chapel & priests' house. He came directly from the Holy rosary. When I told him about Eugene Dillon he looked black and blue at me and answered quickly, "We do not want him, we will have no secular teachers amongst us." Those are his fiery words. When I asked for 5 pupils for St. Joseph's, he flatly refused, forgetting that I am at perfect liberty to act and take them. The St. Joseph normal school building is a significant structure and I am highly pleased with it; but we must necessarily make some changes in divisions of rooms, which will not cost as the inclosed bill shows. As nobody else will go to the Indian agencies to gather the Indian boys for St. Joseph's, I am forced to do it myself, although I hardly able to stand all the strain & troubles.

Re. S. Stenger O.S. B. was sent by Abbott Finton to the Im. Conception Miss. as manager and Rev. Vincent was sent to Devil's Lake. Rev. Stenger is here now and seem to me to be the right man. He is intelligent and understands business and possesses a good deal of energy & zeal. The Abbott visited the Immaculate Conception Mission and gives a glowing account of it. If his letter had been written in English I would send it to you.

Six Sisters are here to go to St. Joseph's and the mother will stay a few days to select things for the house.

Rev. Jutz has sent word by way of Rev. Perrig that he need \$2000. more to finish Holy Rosary and when I told him that my funds for that place were exhausted, he answered me sarcastically! I think best to stop paying, except the buying of furniture, what I am doing now, and let them earn the money on their own contract for 100 pupils (\$10800 per annum) and then finish or improve according to their own means & resources. If Rev. Jutz opens school on the 1st of Sept. he will get paid for the full quarter: July, August & Sept. and thus gets pay for 2 months extra, without feeding or clothing any children for only one month, the month of September. From this surplus he can easily finish the building.

No iron bedsteads arrived yet, although I receive pressing letters from the schools to ship them. My experience teaches one to buy West.

On the 15th inst. I shall be at South Bend to meet the Bishops and on the 16th I start for White Earth, Northern Minnesota, to get Indian boys for St. Joseph's. I encounter an Egyptian travel too.

Adress all you letters to me to N^o 41 Lasalle Street, Chicago, Ill.

My dearest blessings to you and your Sisters. I offer my sincerest prayers for your welfare.

Yours in the Sacred Hearts,

J.A. Stephan